

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04647 291207Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT PARAGRAPH ONE SUBPARAS TO
READ A THROUGH I VICE A THROUGH J)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SPEECH BY BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO TO
AMERICAN CLUB

SUMMARY: IN FRANK, OUTSPOKEN SPEECH TO AMERICAN MEN'S CLUB, BRIG.
CARVALHO REVEALS THAT HE BELIEVES THAT PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES
HAVE CONTINUING ROLE TO INSURE THAT WHATEVER GOVERNMENT
IS CHOSEN BY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE IN 1975 CARRIES OUT THE WILL
OF THE ELECTORATE AND THAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL NOT TOLERATE
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DICTATORSHIP BY EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE
LEFT.

END SUMMARY

1. BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF
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PAGE 02 LISBON 04647 291207Z

LISBON, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES CONTINENTAL

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE (COPCON), AND THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE APRIL 25 ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), SPOKE TO A PACKED HOUSE OF 400 AMERICAN MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 25. HIS SPEECH COMMENCED WITH A QUOTATION FROM THE U.S. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE AIM OF AFM IS TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT PORTUGUESE SOCIETY TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD AN AUTHENTIC PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY.

B. AFTER HALF A CENTURY OF NON-REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT A PERIOD OF TRANSITION IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE MAY FREELY CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE IN 1975.

C. THE AFM HAS ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM OF TRANSITION WITH THREE MAIN POINTS:

--PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIZATION OF INSTITUTIONS;

-- RESOLUTION OF COLONIAL CONFLICTS;

-- ECONOMIC POLICY LEADING TO GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE.

D. THE AFM IS THE ACTIVE FOREFRONT OF THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS AND IS TODAY IDENTIFIED WITH THE TOTALITY OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES.

E. THE AFM WILL ASSURE THIS DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS EITHER BY CIVIL ORGANS OR BY DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

F. HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED IN PORTUGAL AND PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE ARMED FORCES GUARANTEE THEIR FREEDOM. THUS IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE ON THEMSELVES THE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARMED FORCES AS DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES ARE NOW RECOGNIZED, E.G., THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, FREEDOM OF PRESS, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY. (COMMENT: THIS IS APPARENTLY AN INDICATION THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNOFFICIAL PEOPLE'S MILITIA, SUCH AS OCCURRED SEPTEMBER 28 WHEN THE MILITIA PREVENTED THE HOLDING OF THE "SILENT MAJORITY" RALLY, ARE NOT RPT NOT LOOKED UPON WITH FAVOR BY THE ARMED FORCES.)

G. COLONIAL CONFLICTS ARE BEING RESOLVED AND ANOTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRY, GUINEA-BISSAU, CREATED. MOZAMBIQUE IS A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT AND ANGOLA A COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED.

H. THERE ARE STILL CONSTANT EFFORTS BY REACTIONARY FORCES TO SUBVERT DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH USE OF THE NEWS MEDIA AND BY ECONOMIC PRESSURES.

I. THE ARMED FORCES GUARANTEE THAT PORTUGAL WILL MAKE ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04647 291207Z

CHOICE FREELY AND THAT THE COUNTRY WILL BUILD A DEMOCRACY WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR WHICH THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE HAVE FOR SO MANY YEARS ASPIRED.

2. FOLLOWING HIS PREPARED SPEECH, BRIG. CARVALHO RESPONDED TO SERIES OF QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TO THE PROBABLE ATTITUDE OF THE ARMED FORCES SHOULD A DICTATORSHIP OF THE LEFT OR RIGHT COME INTO POWER AS A RESULT

OF THE 1975 ELECTIONS, BRIG. CARVALHO ASSERTED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD MAINTAIN THE ROLE OF WATCHDOG TO PREVENT REESTABLISHMENT OF A DICTATORSHIP, WHETHER IT BE OF LEFT, RIGHT, OR MILITARY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE FORESAW A CONTINUING NATO ROLE FOR PORTUGAL, THE BRIG. RESPONDED THAT NATO IS DESIGNED TO COUNTERACT, THE COMMUNIST THREAT. ONLY IN THE VERY HYPOTHETICAL CASE OF A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT BEING ELECTED IN PORTUGAL, WHICH WOULD CREATE POLITICAL INCOMPATIBILITIES WITH NATO, WOULD HE ENVISION PORTUGAL LEAVING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. ASKED WHETHER THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAD PROOF OF ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES, THE BRIG, RESPONDED THAT THE CIA IS AN ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL ORGANIZATION HAVING SOME 14-16 THOUSAND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IT IS THUS TO BE EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF THESE AGENTS ARE IN PORTUGAL. HE, LIKE MANY OTHERS, CONDEMNED ANY INTERVENTION BY THE CIA IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY IS NOT CONCERNED IF ITS ACTIVITIES WERE OF A MONITORING NATURE BUT WOULD BE GREATLY CONCERNED IF THESE ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL WERE AS ALLEGED IN CURRENT PRESS ARTICLES. AT THE MOMENT THE GOP IS NOT PREOCCUPIED WITH CIA ACTIVITIES, HAVING MANY MORE IMPORTANT CONCERNS. IF, HOWEVER, THE CIA WERE TO ENGAGE IN INTERVENTIONIST ACTIVITIES, THEN CIA WOULD BECOME PRIORITY NUMBER ONE FOR THE GOP.

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